

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of pushing changes in product shipment dates to a catalog comprising:
sending an original availability date for products to said catalog;
maintaining a capacity scheduling system that utilizes a series of capacity buckets to represent said product shipment dates, wherein each capacity bucket represents an additional shipment delay period and wherein said maintaining includes decreasing quantities in said capacity buckets as orders for said products are placed; and
sending a push signal to said catalog when a capacity bucket of a product reaches a specified level.
2. The method in claim 1, wherein said push signal includes a revised availability date for said product in said catalog.
3. The method in claim 2, wherein said revised availability date is different than said original availability date by said shipment delay period.
4. The method in claim 1, wherein the timing of when said push signal is sent to said catalog is dependent only upon said quantities in said capacity buckets.

1 5. The method in claim 1, wherein said catalog comprises an online catalog connected to
2 said capacity scheduling system via a network.

1 6. The method in claim 1, further comprising increasing quantities in said capacity buckets
2 as manufacturing capacity for said products is increased.

1 7. The method in claim 6, further comprising increasing quantities in said capacity buckets
2 as previous orders are canceled.

1 8. A system for updating an online catalog comprising:
2 a scheduling application having a connection to a network; and
3 a catalog connected to said scheduling application via said network, wherein:
4 said scheduling application includes at least one series of capacity buckets relating to at
5 least one product;
6 said scheduling application reduces a quantity in said capacity buckets as orders are
7 placed for said product by users through said network; and
8 as each capacity bucket in said series of capacity buckets reaches a specified level, said
9 scheduling application updates said catalog to change a published shipment date for said product.

1 9. The system in claim 8, wherein each capacity bucket represents an additional shipment
2 delay period for said product.

1 10. The system in claim 9, wherein when said scheduling application updates said catalog to
2 change said published shipment date, said published shipment date is incremented by said
3 additional shipment delay period.

1 11. The system in claim 8, wherein the timing of when said scheduling application updates
2 said published shipment date in said catalog is dependent only upon said quantity in said capacity
3 bucket.

1 12. The system in claim 8, wherein said catalog comprises an online catalog.

1 13. The system in claim 8, wherein said scheduling application increases quantities in said
2 capacity buckets as manufacturing capacity increases.

1 14. The system in claim 8, wherein said system increases quantities in said capacity buckets
2 as previous orders are canceled.

1 15. A program storage device readable by machine tangibly embodying a program of
2 instructions readable by said machine for performing a method of pushing changes in product
3 shipment dates to a catalog, said method comprising:

4 sending an original availability date for products to said catalog;

maintaining a capacity scheduling system that utilizes a series of capacity buckets to represent said product shipment dates, wherein each capacity bucket represents an additional shipment delay period and wherein said maintaining includes decreasing quantities in said capacity buckets as orders for said products are placed; and

sending a push signal to said catalog when a capacity bucket of a product reaches a specified level.

16. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said push signal includes a revised availability date for said product in said catalog.

17. The program storage device in claim 16, wherein said revised availability date is different than said original availability date by said shipment delay period.

18. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein the timing of when said push signal is sent to said catalog is dependent only upon said quantities in said capacity buckets.

19. The program storage device in claim 15, further comprising increasing quantities in said capacity buckets as manufacturing capacity for said products is increased.

20. The program storage device in claim 15, further comprising increasing quantities in said capacity buckets as previous orders are canceled.